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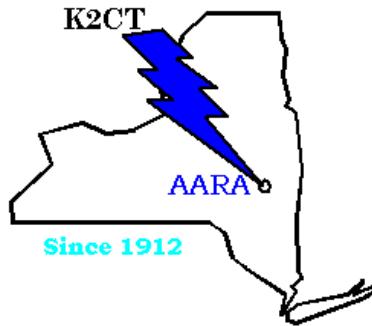
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## Albany Amateur Radio Association

# B-PLUS

JAN.  
2018



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AARA November Meeting  
Friday, Jan12, 2018

Bethlehem Town Hall  
445 Delaware, NY 12054

Social Hour 6:50PM

**Refreshments**

*soda, coffee, water, cookies*

AARA JANUARY Meeting  
Ham Radio Jepperdee with  
host Bob Raffaele, W2XM  
April AARA Dinner?  
Contesting Operating  
Radio Events etc.

[www.k2ct.org](http://www.k2ct.org)

**Please PAY your Dues.**

***AARA Dues***

Dues cheerfully accepted,  
**Dues are \$20.**

B-PLUS Newsletter sent via the  
K2CT Web page in .pdf format

Checks should be made out to  
AARA and sent to:

**Saul Abrams, K2XA**  
**307 Maple Rd.**  
**Slingerlands, NY 12159**

**\*\*\*\*\* AARA CONTESTERS ON THE AIR \*\*\*\*\***

**2017 ARRL NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES -- PHONE RESULTS**

STATION	PREC	QSOs	SECTIONS	CLAIMED	SCORE
W2GDJ	U	937	83	155,542	
N2SQW	U	381	80	60,960	
KM2O	U	172	80	27,520	
K2QY	U	125	62	15,500	
WA3AFS	U	23	23	1,058	

**2017 CQWW DX CONTEST -- CW RESULTS**

STATION	CATEGORY	QSOs	COUNTRIES	ZONES	CLAIMED	SCORE
NX2X	SO (H)	1254	314	94	1,461,048	
N2LBR (+WA1KKM)	M/2	1126	331	94	1,337,475	
N2ZX	SO (H) A	894	388	111	1,259,975	
W2GDJ	SO (H) A	685	328	100	805,068	
N2SQW	SO (H) A	626	222	64	504,938	
K2EP	SO (H) A	529	246	75	481,179	
N1JP	SO (H) A	405	234	65	338,169	
K2BX	SO (H)	400	194	63	294,779	
WC2L	SO (H) A	206	121	38	88,722	
W2EG	SO (L) 40M	263	72	16	65,208	
WA3AFS	SO (H)	69	64	48	19,264	

73,  
Walt, WA1KKM and Sue, N2LBR

***AARA Dues***

Dues cheerfully accepted,

**Dues are \$20.**

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K2CT Web page in .pdf format

**www.k2ct.org**

**ATVET Albany Troy Volunteer Examiner Team**

If you can HELP OUT: call Gerry, WA2IWW

Contact **ATVET LIAISON: Gerry, WA2IWW** [atvet@n2ty.org](mailto:atvet@n2ty.org) or 518-482-8700

## CONTESTS

### Jan. 2018

NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0630Z-0830Z, Jan 14
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 14
NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0900Z-1100Z, Jan 14
Midwinter Contest	1000Z-1400Z, Jan 14
LZ Open Contest	0000Z-0400Z, Jan 20
Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 20 to 1200Z, Jan 21
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 20 to 0600Z, Jan 21
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 22
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jan 24
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 26 to 2159Z, Jan 28
REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 27 to 1800Z, Jan 28
BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 27 to 1200Z, Jan 28
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 27 to 1300Z, Jan 28
Winter Field Day	1700Z, Jan 27 to 1700Z, Jan 28

### Feb. 2018

Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 3 to 2400Z, Feb 4
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	0001Z, Feb 3 to 2359Z, Feb 4
Black Sea Cup International	1200Z, Feb 3 to 1159Z, Feb 4
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1200Z, Feb 3 to 2359Z, Feb 4
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 3
AGCW Straight Key Party	1600Z-1900Z, Feb 3
British Columbia QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 3 to 0400Z, Feb 4
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 4

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### Thomas Fire Response Also Demonstrates Amateur Radio's Social Media Value

ARRL 01/05/2018

Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club (SBARC) members kept a close watch on the [Thomas Fire](#) after it broke out in early December. Using a variety of the club's analog and digital Amateur Radio assets, radio operators were able to observe fire-fighting efforts first hand and pass along immediate information, often before it was reported by official sources or by local news media. SBARC operates five communication sites in Santa Barbara County, including sites on Diablo Peak on the mostly uninhabited Santa Cruz Island, and on Santa Ynez Peak.

"These two sites host [Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast] ADS-B receivers that are connected via a combination of amateur microwave IP links and mesh networking and were used to track and monitor airborne firefighting activities," Levi Maaia, K6LCM, co-chair of SBARC's Telecommunications Services Committee, told ARRL.

Starting in mid-December, a round-the-clock emergency net convened on 2-meters, as commercial power for much of Santa Barbara County was cut and the fire descended on residential communities in Santa Barbara County, prompting multiple evacuation orders. With repeaters on generator power and many operators running on battery power, net traffic consisted of official information, including evacuation orders, live reports on the rapidly approaching fire line from operators who remained inside the mandatory evacuation area, related traffic about firefighting efforts, and wind and weather conditions. SBARC volunteers set up an ad hoc remote receiving station to stream live fire ground and air communications audio over the Internet and mesh network.

As fire crews came off duty, one firefighter and Amateur Radio operator joined the net to offer a firsthand account of operations from an insider's perspective. SBARC members also assisted visiting fire crew members with mobile radio antenna repairs in the field.

Maaia said social media proved to be a valuable communication asset, as most official organizations such as incident command and emergency management agencies were disseminating official information via Twitter immediately upon release. "Amateur stations without power, cell phone or Internet access could be kept informed of important information including evacuation orders, via the Amateur Radio net," Maaia explained. "SBARC also served as an aggregator for [Thomas Fire](#)-related information by featuring tweets on the club website."

The still-burning [Thomas Fire](#), the largest in modern California history, caused devastating losses in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. "Although the Santa Barbara ARES group never activated, Amateur Radio proved to be a valuable mode of communication, especially when coupled with social media, amateur mesh networking, IRC chat (over mesh and Internet) and live audio streaming," Maaia said. In Ventura County, the [Thomas Fire](#) damaged or destroyed some Amateur Radio resources normally available to provide emergency communication. It was an Amateur Radio TV camera that caught the first images of the [Thomas Fire](#) on December 4. A fund-raising effort now is under way to help a repeater system operator to replace gear and to bolster the rest of the system for future such emergencies. Fund-raising sparkplug Ben Kuo, KI6YR, said the fire demonstrated the difficulty of keeping equipment running in remote locations during fire emergencies.

"We also discovered other sites faced serious limitations after utility power was cut and solar panels were obscured by vast clouds of smoke," Kuo recounted in his solicitation. "This GoFundMe [campaign] will go toward enhancing the existing ham radio repeater network, to make it more reliable in emergencies." High-quality video cameras for those repeater sites is another possibility.

During the [Thomas Fire](#), Kuo helped bridge the divide between Amateur Radio and social media, and even firefighters would check his feed to see what was going on in other areas of the fire, he said. "It's a very powerful combination," Kuo told *VC Star*. An ARRL member, Kuo, of Newbury Park, founded the socaltech news site. He's been licensed for 3 years and serves as an ARRL Technical Specialist for the ARRL Santa Barbara Section.

## Thousands Getting Their Grids On! ARRL Letter Jan 4, 2018

**And they're off!** New Year's Day January 1 (UTC) marked the opening day for the ARRL International Grid Chase 2018 ([IGC](#)). Among those hitting their grids running was newly minted General-class operator Katie Thompson, KI7HCX, of Mt. Vernon, Washington, who used the occasion to embark on the Chase and to get on HF for the first time using her own call sign. The 11-year-old comes from a ham radio family. Her dad, Todd, is W7TAO, while her older brothers are Mason, K7MWT, 15 -- who upgraded to Amateur Extra at the examination session where his sister upgraded to General -- and Tanner, K7TMT, 13.

"She called CQ Grid Square Chase on 20 meters and very quickly made 44 contacts," her dad told ARRL. "She was very excited to work her first pileup and even had two Japanese stations QSO with her. She's anxious to continue participating in the grid square chase." Todd Thompson said all three young radio amateurs are looking forward to participating in [Rookie Roundup](#) in April.

The IGC is off to a rousing start, with some 6,400 participants from around the globe already showing up on the [Leader Board](#) as of the morning of January 4. Point totals for the International Grid Chase are shown for confirmed contacts only, and, while the leader boards are not based on real-time data, they are updated several times a day. All

contacts on all bands except 60 meters are valid marked the opening day for the ARRL International Grid Chase credit, provided both stations upload their logs to Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)) and get a match.

The objective of the year-long event is to work stations in as many different Maidenhead grid squares as possible, and then upload your logs to [LoTW](#).

Each new grid square contact confirmed through LoTW will count toward your [monthly total](#). Stations do *not* have to exchange grid squares for a valid contact, although it's anticipated that many operators will do so. Some rare grid squares will be in demand. How about yours? Get on the air, and get behind *your* grid! If you can, get out there, and activate the scarce ones.

Members of the Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club [KM1CC](#) at the Cape Cod National Seashore will activate rare grid square FN51 January 18-19 for the International Grid Chase.

Complete details of the ARRL International Grid Chase 2018 appeared in the December 2017 issue of *QST*. For more information, [contact](#) the ARRL Contest Branch.

**Are You Changing Your Address:** Please contact Walt, WA1KKM 518 456-3637 or via e-mail [sue.walt@dososaur.com](mailto:sue.walt@dososaur.com) with your address corrections

**edited by Mike Bergman**, WD2AJS, 45 Swartson Ct., Albany, NY 12209 518 489-3110. **Articles** and **B-PLUS Swap Shop items** accepted and solicited via mail, phone, or e-mail to [wd2ajs@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wd2ajs@nycap.rr.com)

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